

VZCZCXYZ0011  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLP #2716 2831056  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 101056Z OCT 07  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5214  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 7124  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4498  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 8392  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5622  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2848  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 3040  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4894  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5486  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0089  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0579  
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 002716

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2017  
TAGS: [CVIS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: DFM INVOKES IRAN-CONTRA TO JUSTIFY VISA ON AMCITS

REF: LA PAZ 2713

Classified By: Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg for reasons 1.4 b and d.

1 (C) The Ambassador met with Deputy Foreign Minister Hugo Fernandez October 5 in an effort to further clarify the Bolivian government's intentions and plans for implementing a new visa requirement on American citizens (reftel). The Ambassador again asked whether the new requirement was based on reciprocity and if so, whether the Bolivian government had any plans to impose visas on other countries, for example Schengen countries that demand visas of Bolivian citizens. Fernandez replied that there were no plans to require visas from Schengen countries and acknowledged that the issue was not reciprocity.

Extreme Paranoia: Resurrecting Iran-Contra

12. (C) The Ambassador then questioned whether the Bolivian government was truly concerned about the security threat from AmCits as President Morales frequently states in private, as well as public. Fernandez awkwardly admitted that security was not the issue as the new visa requirement would not enhance security since some of Bolivia's borders with its neighbors are not policed at all. So, the decision is politically motivated, the Ambassador pressed on. Fernandez then explained that "there has not been a revolutionary movement in Latin American history that the United States has not tried to suppress." When asked to explain what he meant by this, the Deputy Foreign Minister said that he remembers "Iran-Contra" and "we do not want that to happen here (in Bolivia)." Flabbergasted by Fernandez' comment, the Ambassador dismissed this concern as preposterous. Fernandez in turn shrugged his shoulders and raised his arms as if to say, "one never knows."

13. (C) Comment: Fernandez' Iran-Contra comment reflects a level of paranoia about U.S. intentions even deeper than we have come to expect. Evo is always at the ready to blame the United States for his inability to advance his domestic "change" program and firmly believes that we are attempting to stymie his revolutionary agenda. It is now becoming evident that Morales and his inner circle are convinced that the United States will do something to remove them from office no matter what assurances we provide to the contrary.  
GOLDBERG